

On October 30, 1996 the Minister of Foreign Affairs announced the establishment of a new Canadian Peace building Initiative as well as the creation of a new peacekeeping fund (\$10 million annually). Although Canada has been an international leader in the evolution of the concept and practice of peacekeeping, the concept of Peace building is relatively new to Canadians and the international community alike. As a result, many aspects of Peace building have yet to be determined. This paper will address one essential aspect of Peace building that has hereto been neglected; gender. In light of a number of recent experiences in Rwanda and Guatemala, as well as the growing literature on the importance of gender in development processes, it will be argued that women play a critical role in the reconstruction of their countries. Moreover, given Canada's experience in peacekeeping, gender and development, and human rights, Canada is well placed to advance an integrative model of Peace building that will effectively respond to the needs of a reconstructing nation.

PEACE BUILDING - AN EVOLVING DEFINITION

In order to gain a firm understanding of how Peace building is presently being articulated and developed, it is important to examine the mandates of more traditional peacekeeping work. Boutros Boutros-Ghali in his 1992 *Agenda for Peace*, organizes United Nations security efforts into four distinct categories. **Preventative Diplomacy** is, "action to prevent disputes from arising between parties, to prevent existing disputes from escalating into conflicts and to limit the spread of the latter when they occur," and **Peacemaking**, "action to bring hostile parties to agreement." Both preventative diplomacy and peacekeeping efforts require the expertise of formal political actors and organizations. **Peacekeeping** efforts, on the other hand, primarily